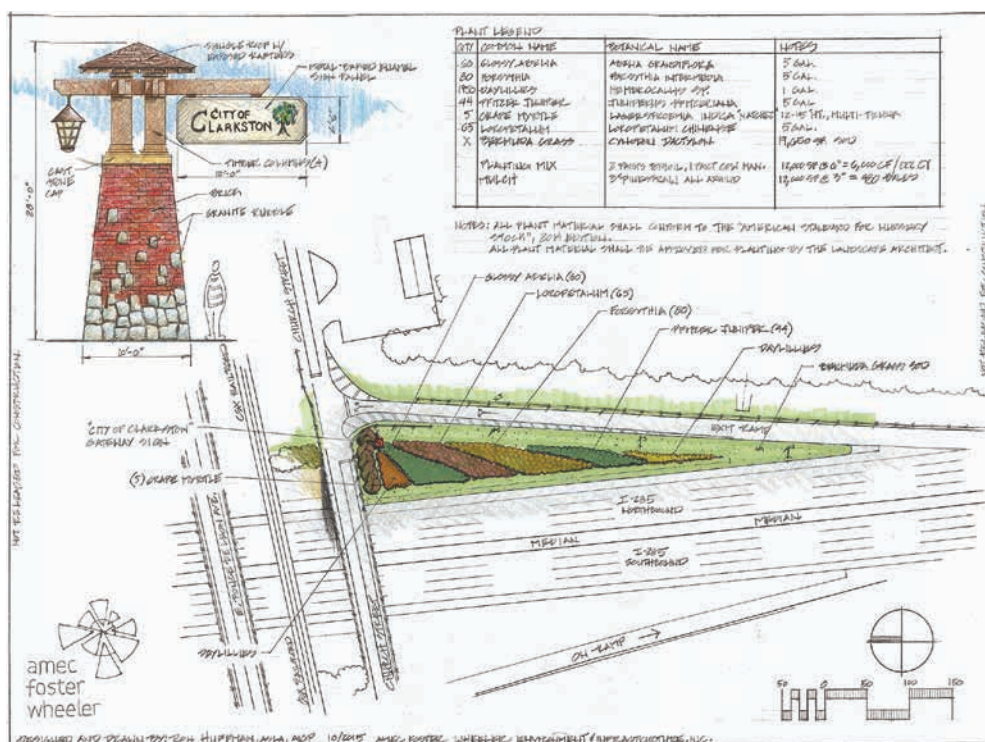


Clarkston Applies for \$50,000 Roadside Improvement Grant

The Clarkston City Council recently authorized the City Manager to submit an application to REBC seeking \$50,000 in grant funds to make roadside improvements. REBC is an acronym for the Roadside Enhancement and Beautification Council. The mission of the REBC Grant Program is to provide funding for roadside enhancement and beautification projects along Georgia's roadsides. The funding for grants comes from contributory value fees paid by outdoor advertising companies to the Georgia Department of Transportation for vegetation removal at outdoor advertising signs. The funds may be used only for landscape plant material and its installation for the furtherance of roadside enhancement and beautification projects along state routes in Georgia.

The Conceptual Landscaping Plan proposed includes plants and trees that are in accordance with the GDOT Landscape Manual. The plants will be located on the southeast corner of the Church St off ramp bankment at I-285. To compliment these plantings, the city will construct, at its own expense, a Gateway Monument. The size of the structure will be dependent on available budget. The City anticipates a structure height of between 15 to 28 feet.

Landscaping and gateway structures in the region are typically built to symbolically re-



Proposed landscaping and gateway monument plan

flect the growth and attractiveness of the local community. More often than not, many of these communities currently have a number of attributes in place within its jurisdiction that help to define its character. This REBC

landscaping grant, when combined with the proposed City Gateway Monument, will be a significant first step to draw attention to the tremendous resurgence and initiatives on-going in Clarkston.

Clarkston Awarded Additional \$1.373 Million to do Streetscape Improvements

A grant application was prepared and submitted to the Atlanta Regional Commission in August, 2015. The City requested funding for 5 additional project elements to augment the \$6 million dollar Streetscape Project currently in the design phase. The total cost

for plan additions will be \$1.7 million dollars. The City anticipates completing design, engineering and right-of-way acquisition next year with construction starting the summer of 2017. Descriptions of the additional project elements are listed below.

NORMAN ROAD PEDESTRIAN BOARDWALK

Cost for Norman Rd dam is anticipated to be 2x to 3x the cost originally budgeted for in the Construction Phase. Subsurface investigations during Concept Phase indicated the cost for rehabilitation could approximate the cost for total replacement. Both options exceeded the original budget amount. The pre-concept budget also included sidewalk replacements. Existing sidewalks on the road/dam (only access to Milam Park) must be replaced. Sidewalk widths range from 2-3 feet wide.

Clarkston's Newly Elected Council Members

BEVERLY BURKS



Beverly Burks, originally from Augusta, GA has called Clarkston her home for 14 years. She has been an active participant in the community and has served as the Vice-Chairman for the Planning and Zoning Committee.

She attained her Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Information Systems (Cum Laude) from Alabama State University. Today she is the Executive Director of the National Pan-Hellenic Council in Decatur, GA. Councilwoman Burks

is a Certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and has completed the Community Health Leadership Program (CHLP) at the Satcher Health Leadership Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine and the Community Planning Academy.

Her goals for Clarkston are to foster relationships with universities, nonprofits, corporations and other government agencies to augment community needs. She is committed to developing a business strategy to revitalize Downtown Clarkston. She stresses the need to “develop the Community Ambassadors Program to train community leaders so they can empower their constituents.”

AWET “HOWARD” EYASU



Awet Eyasu was born and raised in the small town of Keren in Eritrea (East Africa) until his graduation from High school in 1995.

After passing the University entrance Exam he attended the University of Asmara in 1996. He graduated in 2000 with a degree History and a minor in Political Science.

Awet graduated at the top of his class and was accepted by UCLA for their Graduate School. He joined the Af-

frican Area Studies Department in the fall of 2000 and received his Master's degree in African History in 2002.

Councilman Eyasu moved to Clarkston in 2002. He is married and has 4 children. He has been an active participant in the local community and is a graduate of the Clarkston 101 Citizen Education program. With motivation from his family and an interest in the City's future, he decided to run for the Clarkston City Council and was elected to the office on November 3, 2015.

“I am very thankful for the trust I was given by Clarkston Voters, states Councilman-elect Eyasu. I pledge to work hard to improve the living conditions of all the residents of Clarkston.”

MARIO WILLIAMS



Mario Williams first moved to Georgia two decades ago where he graduated with honors from Morehouse College obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. Upon graduating from Morehouse, he worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in Central America for two years. Upon completion, he obtained his law degree at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon. Afterwards, he served as an international human rights advocate in Latin America. His work

included drafting successful human rights complaints on behalf of indigenous people before the Inter American Human Rights Commission.

Approximately seven years ago he moved back to Georgia where he and his wife Julie started a law practice with a special focus in civil rights work. He is currently an attorney and partner at the downtown Atlanta law firm of Williams Oinonen LLC where he practices civil rights law, business law and government. Mr. Williams is ranked by Superlawyers as a Georgia Rising Star, an honor solely awarded to 2.5 percent of lawyers in our state.

Councilman Williams and his wife chose to make their home in Clarkston, being drawn to it for the diversity and strong community. Having dedicated his entire life to Human Rights, Councilman Williams considers his role as a public servant a continuation of his advocacy work and is honored to serve the people of Clarkston.

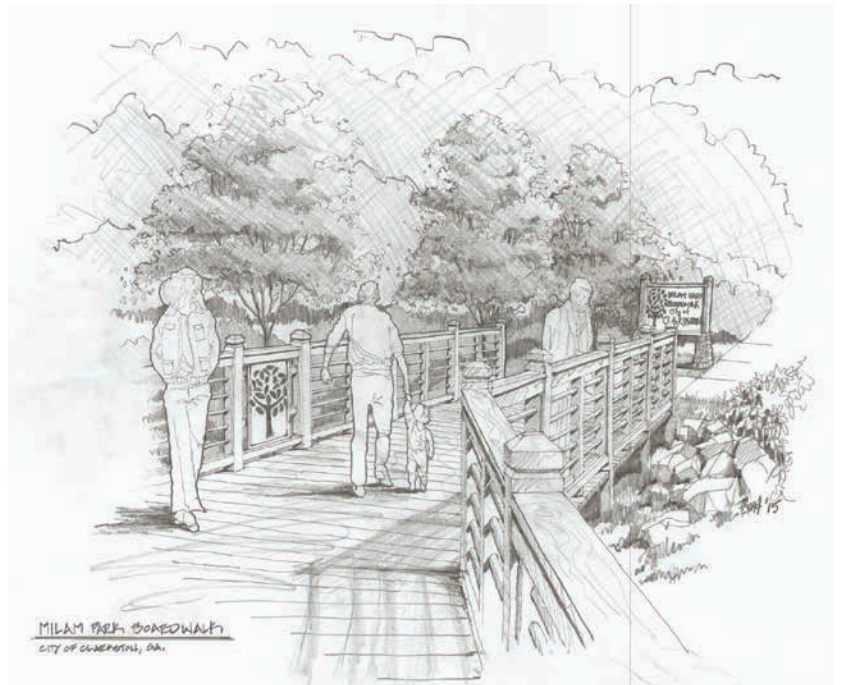
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Concept drawing of pocket park at NIC and E. Ponce de Leon



Concept drawing of Milam Park boardwalk pedestrian bridge

Continued from cover

The design firm identified an alternative to dam replacement or rehabilitation that will cost significantly less than options identified in the aforementioned but considerably more than the original estimate for sidewalks only. The alternative is to keep the dam in place, remove the existing sidewalks off the dam and providing for a far superior pedestrian environment. The alternative will be to install a pedestrian bridge that would run parallel and west of the road/dam that would provide safer pedestrian movements for families accessing the park. The pedestrian bridge would commence on the SW corner of the dam and terminate in Milam Park near the park entrance.

BIO-SWALE/BIO-RETENTION AT NORTH INDIAN CREEK/MARKET STREET INTERSECTION

To address stormwater runoff while providing environmental mitigation, the City formulated a plan to incorporate a stormwater bioswale at the corner of Market and North Indian Creek. The cost to incorporate this environmental component into a stormwater management system will result in additional construction costs. Currently no detention or stormwater structures exist on Market St (from East Ponce to North Indian Creek) – 750 feet of roadway. Flooding of downstream properties have been on-going for decades.

STORMWATER VAULT/ WQ IMPROVEMENTS AND LAND RECLAMATION FOR POCKET PARK

Reclaiming the detention pond at the corner of North Indian Creek and East Ponce as a pocket park was considered in the early planning stages and was incorporated in the design contract for conceptual cost considerations. Converting this parcel of land into usable property will be accomplished through the use of a stormwater underground vault. This work will impact a jurisdictional intermittent stream. This will require a Corp of Engineers 404 permit if greater than 100 feet of stream is impacted – which is the case. In addition, where state waters are impacted through fill placement, piping, etc. mitigation will be required. The mitigation requirements will be minimal – less than 1/3 acre. The underground vault will also incorporate water quality components. The cost for this work has exceeded the original construction cost estimate that was originally developed pre-Concept Plan submittal. Cost increase is primarily due to environmental permitting and cost of the stormwater vault.

RAILROAD UNDERPASS @ N. INDIAN CREEK (EAST PONCE DE LEON - PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY/RIGHT TURN LANE & MARTA BUS PULL OFF)

The traffic study performed as part of the GDOT Concept Report recommended that

an eastbound right-turn lane be constructed on East Ponce de Leon at North Indian Creek. Due to topography changes, a retaining wall be required with this right turn lane. The bus stop will be relocated either east or west of the current location based on MARTA's review. Staff has provided data to MARTA requesting approval of bus-stop relocation and a new bus pull-off to be built on East Ponce east of the North Indian Creek intersection.

To increase traffic capacity under the NIC CSX Underpass (for future changes to lane configuration) and to provide for enhanced pedestrian safety, staff recommended that the sidewalk on the west side of NIC, under CSX Overpass, be removed and the sidewalk on the east side be relocated to behind the bridge pier. This will result in the concrete embankment being reconstructed including to include a new retaining wall.

These changes were as a result of the Traffic Study and analysis of pedestrian safety during GDOT Concept Report development. This intersection is the most congested and has the highest pedestrian and accident history in the city. These changes were not contemplated prior to concept report development.

Continued on page 4

CITY NEWS

Continued from page 3

MARKET ST & ROWLAND RD IMPROVEMENTS

The City modified the original project scope to replace Church St (from Market St to Norman) with the following:

- Market Street from Church to Rowland
- Rowland from Market St to Norman

This scope change reflects the recommendations in the ARC LCI 10 Year Update and provides a greater Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity from the government offices and PATH Trail (Rowland Rd) to Clarkston Town Center. These two road segments will include sidewalks and pedestrian – scale lights including an 8 ft. cycle track that is separated from the thru lanes with a median separated bike lane. All improvements on Market Street will be accomplished within existing ROW through the use of road diet techniques (reduction of lanes from 4 to 3). A 10 foot wide multi-use path on Market St will cross CSX at-grade and terminate at East Ponce de Leon. Landscaping is also proposed on Market Street and Rowland Rd.

This is a Scope Expansion to incorporate recommendations in the ARC LCI 10 year update. The city saw an opportunity to begin the implementation of one task element from the 10 year update with the “City of Clarkston Pedestrian Safety & Operational Improvement” project.

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Clarkston Community Projects

By John Beck

Soon you will be seeing some new additions to the Clarkston landscape spring up.

The City Council approved three Participatory Budget Programs a few months ago and they are nearing fruition.

The first project is reusable shopping bags. 1400 reusable shopping bags with the City logo were purchased. These are being provided to citizens to reduce the use of plastic bags in the city and the resulting litter they cause. Citizens are encouraged to use these bags when they shop in and around Clarkston to reduce the number of plastic bags that end up as litter in the city and in the landfill.

Several hundred shopping bags were recently handed out to citizens at the Tree Lighting event. Clarkston Connected Seniors also received shopping bags to distribute to their members.

These bags will continue to be handed out to citizens at upcoming events and public locations.

The City Council also approved the construction of ten concrete and wood benches to be located throughout the city. This project included the purchase of concrete molds so that we can continue to add to the number of benches available to Clarkston residents as needed.

The first benches will be placed in Friendship Forest, Brockett Triangle, Milam Park and other locations.

And last but not least, be on the lookout for red and black “one room schoolhouses”. Eight “Little Free Libraries” will start popping up at various locations throughout the city. These are intended to allow residents to “take a book or leave a book”. These will be added to an online nationwide map of Little Free Libraries.

The purpose of the libraries is to promote literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges along with a sense of community. They are intended for children as well as adults. So please encourage your children to use them and make use of them



yourselves.

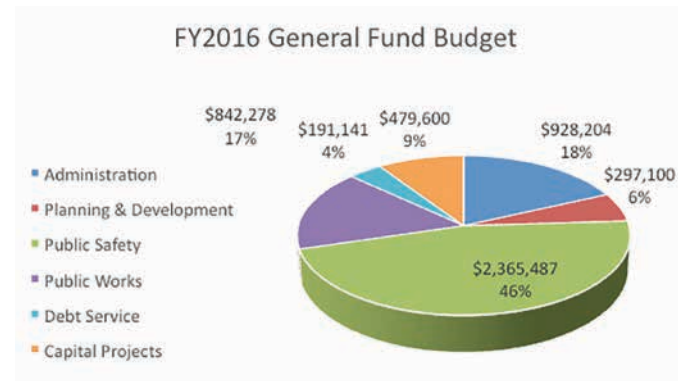
So feel free to take a book or two and if you have a great book you want to share then you can leave them as well.

There are over 32,000 Little Free Library book exchanges in 70 countries worldwide, bringing curbside literacy home and sharing over 1 million books annually. Our eight libraries will soon be added to the worldwide map offered on the official website.

If you like what you see, be sure to thank the City Council for their support of these projects.

Clarkston Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Approved by City Council

On December 1, 2015, the Clarkston City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget as presented by the City Manager. The FY2016 budget for all funds combined is \$5,737,461 compared to the FY2015 budget of \$5,427,427. This represents an increase of 5.7%. The General Fund budget of \$5,103,811 comprises 89% of the total combined budget and increased by 7.5%, with 46% allocated to Public Safety and 17% allocated to Public Works.



The percentage allocations for the 2016 by Service Category



2015 Clarkston Tree Lighting

The 2015 Annual Tree Lighting Event was a Great Success thanks to efforts of the Clarkston Mayor, the current members of the City Council and Newly Elected Council members Beverly Burks, Awet Eyasu and Mario Williams. A crowd of 300 adults and children showed up at the Clarkston Woman's Club to enjoy musical entertainment provided by the Proskunee School of the Arts and Indian Creek Elementary School. A special dance presentation was performed by members of the Clarkston First Baptist Church.

The Clarkston Public Works Department provided a spectacular fireworks show that thrilled the crowds who were waiting for the

arrival of a special guest. Santa Claus arrived at the festivities by DeKalb County Fire Truck and with the help of the kids, the Clarkston Tree was illuminated.

Kids with their parents waited patiently in line for their chance to sit with Santa, take pictures and receive a special goody bag. Everyone attending agreed the event was an overwhelming success and Clarkston Mayor Ted Terry was excited with how well the event turned out. "I think the community was very excited to see all of the Clarkston elected officials working together to make this event something special for the community."

Clarkston Town Center Code Update

By Dean Moore

The City of Clarkston has tasked the Collaborative Firm to revise the Town Center zoning district codes through a stakeholder outreach program. A steering committee was identified in October, for the code update process, to encompass members of the community to include property owners, residents, public officials, and representatives of the refugee community.

The overall goal for contemporary town center design includes providing opportunities to live, work, play, and shop in a vibrant town center. Encouraging quality urban design to improve the aesthetic appearance for a mixed use environment follows the recently updated Clarkston Living Centers Initiative (LCI) goals for land use design and streetscape improvements for the town center.

Strengthening design regulations for quality construction without creating unnecessary costs for prospective developers, including architectural standards and building materials, will encourage an improved aesthetic appearance. Lacking a strong historic character, the Clarkston Town Center design can more easily be customized for a pedestrian-oriented theme to include principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

Regulations will be developed to create incentives for mixed use development. Encouraging retail and restaurant uses on ground floor

levels will serve to create a vibrant, active downtown. Streetscape design elements will enhance the pedestrian environment as well as improve the appearance of the town center.

Public art will be a key component in beautifying the town center. A separate public art ordinance will be developed in order to secure financing for arts-based beautification project grants through the Atlanta Regional Commission's (ARC) Public Art Grant Program as well as potentially requiring developments over a certain cost to contribute to a public art fund.

Ordinance changes are first submitted to the Planning and Zoning Committee for review, changes, approval, and recommendations for the City Council. The proposals are then submitted to the City Council for review, modification and approval for the changes to become a part of the City of Clarkston Zoning Ordinance.

Building on, modifying and modernizing the Town Center District and Civic Design Guidelines to follow the updated Comprehensive Plan, 2015 LCI report, improvements in pedestrian safety including the Complete Streets Policy and streetscapes project, and a definitive public art ordinance or master plan, the steering committee and the Collaborative Firm seek to improve the aesthetic appearance of the Town Center by guiding mixed use development as it transforms our public environment.



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